

Grill

J. Sidney

F. R. MAGDONALD
PRESIDENT

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE

Grill J. Sidney

WM. F. CARTER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

X Organizing Committee

TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS LOCAL UNION 631

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS,
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS OF AMERICA.



P. O. BOX 1966

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

307-309 WALL STREET
Telephone DU 2-1428

February 23, 1959

Mr. James R. Hoffa, General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters,
Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers of
America
25 Louisiana Ave
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In reply to your letter of the 16th, I have contacted
J. Sidney Grill and have looked into the prospects of organi-
zation for the group.

There are approximately 10,000 to be organized in the
group statewide, including dealers, skills, change girls, guards
and maintenance people.

If it is your intention to charter the group on a state-
wide basis, please send us the charter and we will obtain the
necessary signatures.

This letter will be followed by a telephone call shortly
with additional information.

Fraternally yours,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #631

Wm. F. Carter

Wm. F. Carter
Secretary-Treasurer

WFC/bl

~~TOP SECRET~~

February 16, 1959

Mr. Bill Carter
Teamsters Local Union No. 14
P. O. Box 1966
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Sir and Brother:

Attached is a copy of a communication from J. Sidney Grill
with a clipping from the Las Vegas Sun.

I would appreciate your investigating this situation and letting
me know the prospects of organizing this group.

Fraternaly yours,

James R. Hoffa,
General President

JRH/yk
Enc.

J. Sidney Grill
1520 Bryn Mawr
Las Vegas, Nevada
Dudley 2-1993

February 12, 1959

Mr. James W. Hoffa
General President
International Brotherhood Of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoffa,

I refer you to my letter to you dated March 11, 1958 and your letter of reply to same dated March 14, 1958 and the subject matter concerning the organizing of gambling casino employees.

I am enclosing herewith the front page of today's Las Vegas Sun and have underlined the points of interest with red pencil which are in themselves self-explanatory.

Never before has the time been more appropriate to start to organize these people nor never have these people ever before been so amenable to and ready for organization and representation of a union.

The only logical conclusion which can be drawn from these very current events is that some union is going to step in and organize these gambling casino employees. Might I suggest that you dispatch a team of your investigators who can personally survey the Las Vegas scene and report back to you thus giving you their side and you already have my views.

Please consider these additional facts I have submitted on this matter and let me hear from you regarding same.

Very truly yours,

J. SIDNEY GRILL

ADMINISTRATIVE FILE ✓
Grill, J. Sidney
Organizing - Las Vegas

March 19, 1958

C
O
P
Y

Mr. William F. Carter, Secretary-Treasurer
Local Union No. 631
P. O. Box 1968
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Brother Carter:

Attached is a copy of some correspondence which
I thought you might want to know about.

Fraternally yours,

James R. Hoffa
General President

JRH/alb
Encl - Ltr March 11
fr J. Sidney Grill
Hoffa reply March 14

March 14, 1958

Mr. J. Sidney Grill
1520 Bryn Mawr
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Grill:

I have before me your communication of March 11, 1958 and I find your comments pertaining to the unorganized workers in Las Vegas extremely interesting.

With reference to your desire to organize these employees on our behalf, I truly appreciate your offer, but at the present time we are not ready to commence such an organizational drive in Las Vegas.

However, I shall be very happy to keep you in mind with respect to any future program in this area.

Faternally yours,

James R. Hoffa,
General President

JRH/yk

J. SIDNEY GRILL
1520 Bryn Mawr
Las Vegas, Nevada
Phone: Dudley 2-1993

March 11, 1958

MR. JAMES R. HOFFA
General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoffa,

After due and sincere deliberations relative to a condition existing in Las Vegas I decided to write you concerning the matter. As this letter progresses, the purpose behind it will become evident and clear.

My wife and I have been residents of Las Vegas for over 3 years. For the first 1½ years I was a talent agent in Las Vegas and was licensed and franchised by the American Guild Of Variety Artists and the American Federation of Musicians. As a talent agent I called on each and every hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe and some other towns in the state. For the last 1½ years I have worked in two of the large resort hotels, the Dunes Hotel and the Tropicana Hotel, as Bar Manager and Host. While so employed I have been a member of the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, and am still a paid up member in good standing. In brief, I have been in and around the gambling casinos and the gambling industry for over 3 years.

In the natural course of events, one in my position is thrown in with many many employees of the various casinos in Las Vegas. This is so because you meet casino employees at social activities, during dinner breaks, during routine coffee breaks, before they go on shift, after they go off shift, at meetings of fraternal organizations and at the many other normal activities of any small town or city.

From the conversations I have had with countless numbers of the casino employees at my home, at their homes, at bars, in restaurants and at the places in which they are employed, there is always the same hue and cry. These people have no job security! It is a well known fact that were John Doe hired by John Jones to work in a casino, once Jones the person who did the hiring was fired then Doe and the others he hired would also be fired. As a new casino manager comes in out goes the old crew regardless of whether or not they are capable. The only casino employees with job security are those who buy into the casino. Other than that the casino employees have no recourse or protection of their jobs. Amongst the thousands of casino employees there are a majority who are patiently waiting for some union which is strong enough and willing to organize their craft.

It must be remembered that the gambling industry is here to stay and it no longer exists or is comprised of old timers who hail from the illicit gambling halls. Today, one look around any casino will point up the new and young element who have invaded this very lucrative craft. Men in their twenties are steadily moving into the craft as rapidly as the schools for Gambling Dealers turn them out.

The gambling industry in Nevada is growing in leaps and bounds as is evidenced by all of the new places being opened and the older ones remodeling and enlarging their room capacity. With this growth the amount of casino employees must of necessity increase steadily. Havana with all of its casinos did take some of our seasoned casino people away but of course these were replaced by the new element who have chosen the gambling field as their means of a livelihood. Thus, even Havana's casinos did not in any way decrease the numbers of those employed in the Nevada casinos. Reports from the U.S. Labor Department recently released show that Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States from 1950 to date.

In all my days around unions and union shops never have I ever observed at first hand a more fertile and willing employee group who are ready for union organization than the casino employees. Certainly there will be die-hardies who will not favor unionism but for every one of these there will be 25 who favor unionism and the benefits they will derive from being unionized.

The average resort hotel casino employs between 150 to 300 men and women to cover their 3 shifts on a 24 hour a day basis, there are 11 of these now operating and 4 more in the process of beginning to operate. There are 4 casinos in the downtown area who employ between 150 and 500 people to cover their 3 shifts on a 24 hour a day basis. There are ever so many clubs around the resort hotels and in the downtown area who also employ anywhere from 2 casino employees to 50 casino employees. This accounts for the actual Crap table, 21 table, Roulette table, Big 6 table, Poker table, Ban table, and the Keno Game only. However, there are at least a thousand casino employees in Las Vegas alone who comprise the crews who operate the slot machines. In other words, for the Las Vegas area only there are at least 3500 people employed as casino workers. This does not account for those employed in Reno, Lake Tahoe and the countless number of other cities in Nevada with gambling casinos.

The gambling industry is here to stay in Nevada because it now represents 25 % of the income of the residents of the state and it thus provides the state with 30 % of its tax revenue. The tax deal is also true at the County and City level because they too share in the tax on gambling. Because the gambling industry represents such a vast amount of people the industry thus provides employment and income for all other crafts such as teamsters, bakers, engineers and any and all craft which normally supplies a community with commodities and services.

I personally feel in my heart and soul that I could go out and sell unionism to the casino employees. With a well mapped and thought out

campaign plus your union's strength behind the project, there is no other possibility except eventual complete organization of the gambling craft.

My union organizational ability rests on several factors, one of which has to do with actual union organization. In 1937 I was one of a group of 5 men in New York City who organized into a union the Theatre Managers, Assistant Managers, Treasurers, Doormen, Ticket Takers, Ushers and Usherettes, Porters and Matrons. Without any international or other union affiliation we gathered over 400 members who paid dues, bought bonds and stayed with the plan. Unfortunately we were unable to get affiliation with a union body and as a result the group broke up after several months. However, I feel now as I did then that the gambling industry employees are sorely in need of having a union to protect them and to represent them. It appears to me that were I so successful in organizing over 400 into a body without affiliation that I would be much more successful working on a like proposition with the Teamster Union behind my efforts. I could say modestly that New York City is now about 100 % organized in the crafts I started to organize in 1937 and I feel that in some small measure that my efforts and those of my co-organizers were directly responsible for this. Other than this I would also like to state that all of my adult business experience has been a series of organizing or reorganizing businesses and I personally feel that I am a leader not a person to be lead.

There is only one man in your union with whom I have ever had a discussion with relative to this matter, Mr. Frank Chavez, Business Representative of Local 196. I firmly believe that Mr. Chavez will attest to my sincerity, honesty, integrity and dependability.

Without fear of contradiction I know I can create a union of the casino employees but I also know that without your organization's backing the task would be fruitless. There is much which a letter can not really relate but I have tried to apprise you as lucidly as possible as to the possibilities of the project. Perhaps a personal conversation at a meeting would enhance the whole matter. Nevertheless, please advise me at your earliest convenience as to your thoughts on this matter.

Very truly yours,

J. SIDNEY GRILL